

Foreign Agricultural Service GAIN Report

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India

Agricultural Situation Monsoon Progress Report - Two 2002

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Report Highlights:

Progress of the Southwest monsoon continues to remain satisfactory.

The southwest monsoon continued to progress timely and as of June 25 covered most parts of India with the exception of northwestern India (Figure 1). During the week ending June 19, rains were normal or above normal in 23 of the 36 weather subdivisions (Figure 2), mostly in southern and eastern India.

During the period from June 1 to June 19, the cumulative rainfall was normal to excess in 27 of the 36 weather subdivisions (Figure 3), compared with 18 a week ago and 30 during the corresponding period last year.

Recent precipitation in several parts of the country should encourage farmers to start planting kharif cereals like rice, sorghum, millet and corn, oilseeds and cotton. Areas which received significantly below normal precipitation are West Madhya Pradesh (soybeans), East Madhya Pradesh (rice), Saurashtra and Gujarat region (peanut and cotton) and Marathwada (sorghum and cotton). Ideal planting times are normally before July 1 in these states but delayed planting (by 2 to 3 weeks) will not necessarily result in reduced yields, particularly if monsoon rains improve as the season progresses.

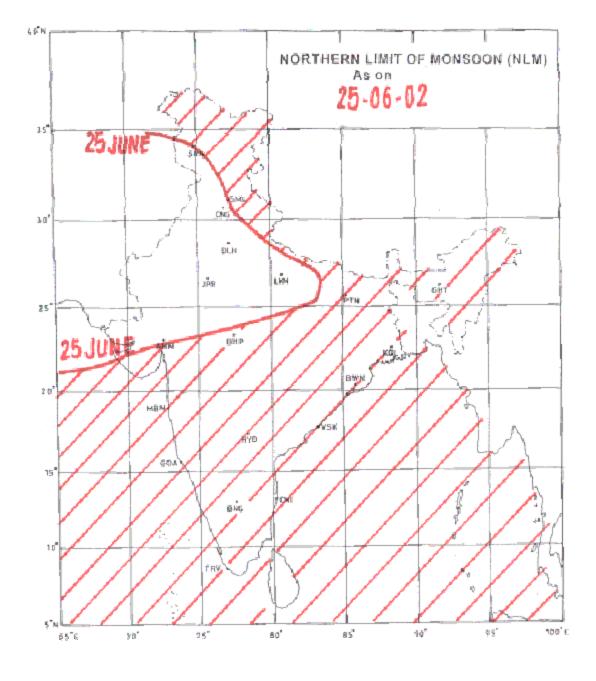


Figure 1: Progress of Monsoon as on June 25

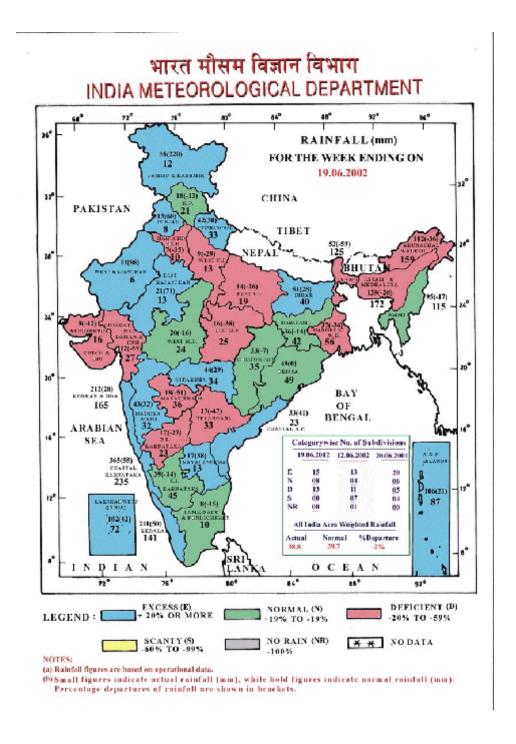


Figure 2: Rainfall During the Week of June 19

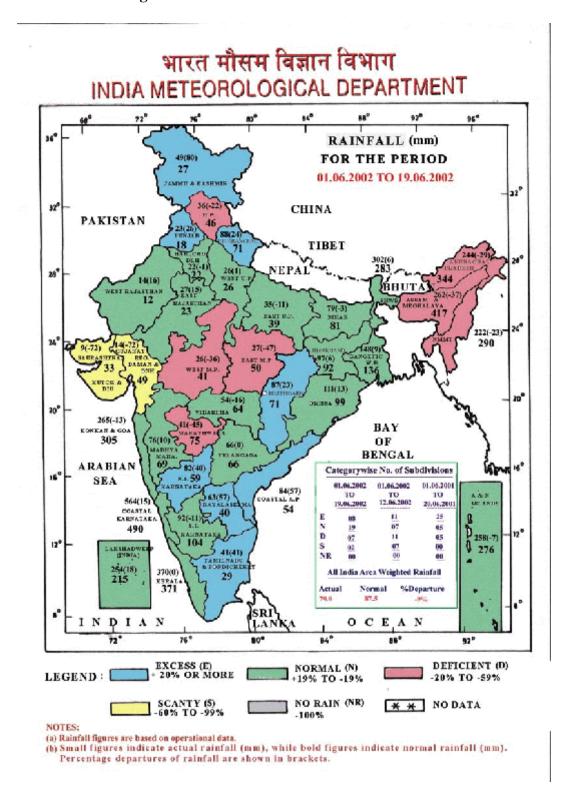


Figure 3: Cumulative Rainfall from June 1 to June 19